

cm 88

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

JAN 2 1983

CHRISTMAS 1983

Tocsin



JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

Collins Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 190, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V9

ah

THE TOCSIN

Editor:	BoB Doucette
Staff Writer:	Jeff McLeod
Cartoonist:	BoB Doucette
Front Cover:	Drawn by Colin Watson

*** JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY ***
Collins Bay Penitentiary Chapter

* * * * *

Chairman:	Nick Malham
Secretary:	Guy Lount
Treasurer:	Garry Skinner
Vice-Chairman	Jeff McLeod
Advisor:	Ron Lauzon
Guest Co-ordinator	Dan Sheehan
Guest Co-ordinator	Rick Aitchison

* * * * *

<<< TOCSIN >>> A warning bell or signal alarm.....

Articles, poems, jokes, etc., should be forwarded to:

The Editor
TOCSIN
P.O. Box 190
Kingston. Ont.
K7L 4V9

THANK YOU!

Collins Bay Chapter

John Howard Society

Aims and Objectives

1. The abolishment of Mandatory Supervision.
2. The abolishment of all Special Handling Units.
3. The abolishment of 25 year minimum sentences.
4. Against construction of new prisons.
5. Decent comparable wages for skilled and unskilled labour.
6. A more humane prison system.
7. Introduction of prison industry.
8. A more liberal parole programme.
9. Introduction of effective pre-release programs.
10. Fair and equal sentencing practices.
11. Introduction of alternatives to incarceration.
12. To make the public aware of the realities of the Criminal Justice, Parole and Prison System(s).
13. To make bail a right, not a privledge.
14. To fight for prisoners rights.
15. To constantly remind everyone that we are sent to prison as punishment.....not for punishment.
16. To help all prisoners in whatever manner and way possible.

* * *

* * INSIDE * *

01. Introduction	Editor
02. Viewpoint	David Milgaard
03. Criminals	Suzanne Wintrob
06. A More Humane Prison System	BoB Doucette
10. Education	Peter Davidson
12. Wake Up Hollands!	Peterborough Examiner
14. Letter to Examiner	Daryl Gellner
15. Letter to Examiner	Byll Shannon
16. Poetry	Valerie Morrison
17. A Few Moments Of Happiness	Nick Malham
19. J.H.S. Collins Bay	BoB Doucette
21. Think About It	J.D. Lewis
24. The Sociology of Penal Systems	Lynne VanDalen
28. For Want of An Opportunity	BoB Doucette
30. Humor	BoB Doucette
31. Cartoon (solitary)	D. Corville
32. John Howard Society	Rose Hemick
33. Letter To Our Chapter	Diana
35. Poetry	Daniel Beatty
36. Facts	Nick Malham
37. Poetry	BoB Doucette
38. Thoughts on the Pay System	Guy Lount
42. Poetry	Joie Burns
43. Chairmans Final Word	Nick Malham
44. Our Immediate Concern	J.H.S.,C.B.I
45. From All Of Us To All Of You	
46. Good Reading Material	
47. Subscription Forms	

INTRODUCTION

When I was initially asked to run a copy of TOCSIN, I was at first a little apprehensive. My compulsion to write had greater will and the product is about to unfold.

My first day on the job had me out of place and feeling awkward. I expected I would need to compete with my former colleagues, who I found to be skillful and devoted. Perhaps a brief discription of my history will give you a greater scope should you try to imagine who this person is, that has now taken your attention.

I was born in a small lumber town of New Brunswick, in 1950. At the age of 13, I experienced my initial encounter with the law. Twelve years of prison life has taken its toll. Today at this very instance I ponder, I wonder, I try to realize if it was all necessary. I mean all those wasted years just to be here today and do what I regard to be one of my greater interests. To write.

It is my ambition to work with many people of interest, both from the Bay and supporters from various communities - in a joint effort to inform the public on issues pertaining to the cause and effect of crime and the Criminal Justice System. Specific attention will be directed to the youth of our country, who may already have mixed feelings towards crime, drugs or alcohol, and education. Those who may have a FTW attitude, need people whose concern is to save them from an otherwise bleak future.

All corespondence directed to the editor will have to include a statement, that you do not wish to have your material published. Thank you for all the material presently received. Please keep it coming. A special thanks to Lynne VanDalen, a volunteer member of John Howard Society, Kingston; for her encouragement and support during recent years.

The views expressed in TOCSIN are not necessarily those of the Collins Bay administration, the Canadian Corrections Service, the John Howard Society of Canada or any other body of the Criminal Justice System.

BOB DOUCETTE
Editor

VIEWPOINT

The advocacy role of the John Howard Society should be in direct proportion to their original mandate. A reform policy that deals in one offender after another, young or otherwise, into prison - actual social garbage dumps, is not the answer. Prisons have an atmosphere of environmental factors that make it damn unlikely any personal reformation has much of an opportunity to find purchase in the thinkings of these men and women. This is not a holding to or an affirmation of the dignity and worth of human life.

Let not the semantics of words cloud this issue. With the conference at Lake Couchiching outside of Toronto looking at the structure and autonomy (the growth now taking place) within John Howard, there are some identified areas of concern. Within the framework of the present policy and in reference to whom John Howard should be "accountable" to - regarding all services and contracting done for the government - I am truly concerned about the reform role of the agency. "Accountability" to the prisoner, to their bad situations, to the social nature of their problems - just where will this need be met when every one is trying so hard to get government funded programs that require a holding to the reality of today's prisons. This policy, a retreat philosophy - a giving up position is an attempt to have the public feel no apathy or serious responsibility for the continued growth of crime. This is a fool's move. It may be economically favorable and mean growth across the board for everyone, as prisons are a growth industry, but at the cost of one offender after another going into the machine to become just another statistic. This will produce more prisons, more prisoners and more crime.

Your best prison reformers are the prisoners themselves. It is when we come forward with issues that concern not only the Collins Bay Chapter of the John Howard Society, but also the John Howard Society of Canada, that we are truly advocating ourselves. We need the support of everyone even if it is at the cost of development and growth.

The existing order must be changed; it is a terrible situation.

David Milgaard

July 29, 1983

LETTER TO OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Nick,

Thank you for making the three of us feel so welcome at your chapter meeting last night. So many thoughts went flipping through my head on my way back to Toronto. I sat right down and just had to put it on paper. The article enclosed is the result. Hopefully it will appear in the next issue of TOCSIN.

I'm sending it to you now, to share with the members of your chapter at Collins Bay, and to say thank you. Best wishes and the best of luck to all of you.

Sincerely,
Suzanne

CRIMINALS

By

Suzanne Wintrob

"Criminals? Lock them away & don't let them back on the street until they can function like respectable citizens."

That was my attitude in April. But after spending the summer working for the John Howard Society of Ontario, my opinion on the justice system has taken on a new light. And in only 15 weeks.

I saw the job posted in Ryerson's Student Manpower Centre. "Job discription--Interviewing male ex-convicts" the sign read. I was a bit wary, yet decided to give it a try anyway, since it would be a good experience for my future journalism career. But when I was hired, I became very nervous. What would I actually be doing? "I don't think it will be to safe, Suzanne," my mother cautioned. "What if they attack you or something? Make sure you aren't left alone with these criminals!" As usual, I let her worry (she does it so well) and took the job.

My summer, I learned, would involve writing articles about various programs that JHS offers offenders and ex-offenders. I met with directors of the program and a JHS client who was benefitting from them. I went to community resource centres and talked to residents who were happy to be slowly readjusted to society. I went to Hamilton's Attendance Centre and heard 14-year-olds say that "I'll be happy when all of my troubles are over." I attended Ottawa's Women's Program and felt their frustration of loving someone in jail. And I went to Collins Bay Penitentiary, where I spoke to men who "don't do notin' all day cept lift weights cuz there's nothin else to do in here."

I had never expected to get so emotionally involved in my summer job. Because usually one never does. But here I am, reflecting on my summer experience, and I don't know where to begin. My feelings are all mixed up.

My mother was wrong when she said it wouldn't be a safe job. There wasn't one time I felt scared. As a matter of fact I was treated with a great deal of respect, because both the offender and ex-offenders knew I only wanted to help them the best I could. My job was simply to interview them, but I frequently found myself putting down my pen and just listening. They really wanted to talk, to know that there is really someone who cares about them.

I think it was my two trips to Collins Bay that had the biggest effect on me.

The first outing to the Bay was on July 24TH for the 7TH Annual Exceptional People's Olympiad. Besides watching the exciting races and seeing the love displayed by the handicapped athletes and their "godbrothers", it was a chance to socialize with the inmates and hear first hand what it is like to live inside iron bars and stone walls.

"It's hell in here," said Marc, 23. "It's a nice place to visit I guess, but you sure wouldn't want to live here." Every day Marc spends cleaning the range and working out with the barbells. He doesn't smile much. He says it's because he is bored, but it's probably because he's lonely.

The other guys are the same. Stan, also 23, has a six-year-old daughter but his ex-girlfriend won't even bring the child to visit her father. "I love her so much, and it hurts not to see her growing up."

I found myself spending quite a lot of time with the inmates at the Olympiad. I told them what I do in my spare time, and they spoke of their lives before they were sent to prison. Each guy wanted so badly to talk--or, more importantly, to have me listen. We played volleyball, miniature golf and paddleball, always laughing and talking. The guys really went out of their way to make me feel comfortable. And they didn't look at me with any lust, but they looked upon me with a kind of awe. I was a woman, but probably a different type of a woman than they ever befriended. They realized that I care about them. The more I talked to them, the less I noticed the many tattoos that covered their bodies and the more I forgot I was talking to drug dealers and murderers. Yet I wasn't scared, not for a minute.

They complained of the lack of educational opportunities in prison, the lack of trade schools and jobs, and of the \$11. they make each week. "Where is the opportunity model when they are cancelling the opportunities?" they ask. "It costs us \$100. per course, plus books. We don't get grants or loans. And with what we make each week, I call that extortion. They put me in jail for that and their doing it right here."

It seems to me that the government can produce files of researched information that states how wonderful the education system in prison is. But when you hear it straight from it's residents, you know who to believe. Offenders need alternatives to prison. They need help in readjusting themselves to a society that has rejected them because of their offences. They know they must face the consequences of their actions, but often they need help--love, caring and understanding. You can't leave them to rot in jail, because all they learn in there is how to hate.

I remember how I felt leaving Collins Bay Penitentiary. As the iron doors clang behind me, I realized I was free to walk out whenever I pleased. Marc, Stan, Bernie and all the others would be there for years. When they get out, they'll be bitter & full of rage, and angry at a society that hasn't helped them put their lives back together.

To Marc, Stan and the John Howard Society, I say thank you for teaching me what life is all about.

A More Humane Prison System

Our world is highly sophisticated in technology. There has been success in scientific endeavors, that had once been considered by many, as being utterly impossible. People have travelled to the moon and returned. Buildings of immense proportion have been constructed, bridges which span oceans, automated mass production and global telecommunications to name some achievement; all of which are awesome, extravagantly magnificent.

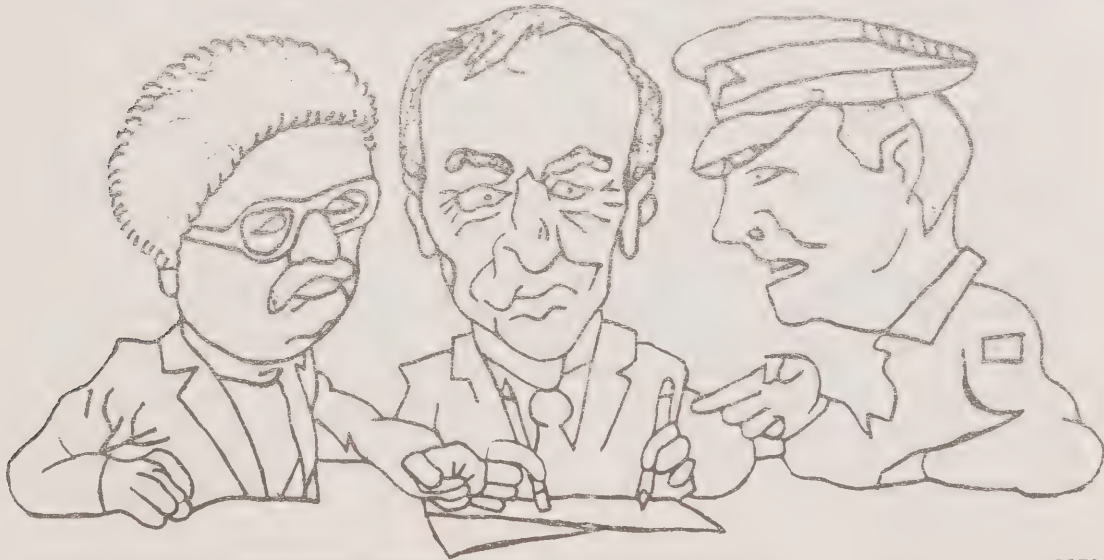
Why then; just why, are Canadian prisons nothing short of being bizarre and unconcerned about the waste of human lives. Let not the argument that prisons are for those who themselves have wasted a human life obstruct the meaningfulness of this article. Those people are but a minority among a minority.

Our science's of psychology, psychiatry, and sociology; what advances have they made towards a better understanding of human nature? These departments have dealt with motivation basic human needs and desires for centuries. Philosophical doctrines have been challenged with the changes of public moral acceptance. Maslow's theory of human needs and desires, advocates that motivation is the product resulting from the environment people are subjected to....poverty breeds contempt and animosities, riches breed greed and partial alienation from the less fortunate.... at least my experience tells me I'm not completely off track.

One could almost draw the presumption that the main cause of prison inadequacies are simply hidden behind the shields of SECURITY. I have yet to see that word defined so to understand what it totally encompasses. Is this why we are expected to except the degradation and inadequacies presently in the system to exist. Surely there must be some form of feasible alternative. As it is, it is just too difficult to wash when considering how far mankind has progressed in various other fields, which has moulded our lives. So why are we being sequestered by such a fraud.

Prison is in itself, an extremely effective punishment. No added trimmings, toppings, or stuffings are required to subjugate. Our basic living requirements are met. Whether it is of standard quality or not has little to do with this argument in particular. The crux of the problem at hand is - what do prisons do to cultivate a healthy mind? Most problems stem from an attitude exposed at a given time. An attitude which had gradually developed and then held to be socially acceptable: at least among his immediate peers. Social status, personal achievement, gratification, are every individual's goal. Commonly, a convicted felon had been reduced or had never attained status of any significant personal worth. He eventually believed that criminal activity was his only immediate recourse to achieve such worth.

It is now becoming an accepted theory that prisons are and never was effective in the deterrence of crime. Prison violence is appalling - or for that matter any violence is. As for prison violence, it can be accreted from a conditioned attitude manifested from prison over-crowding with deferential characters, inadequate prison occupation, outmoded recreational facilities, limited educational opportunities, limited or no self-improvement programs and foremost; too long of periods of time without social contact during the incarcerated period. In short, where there is no hope, there will be no concern, no real responsibility, and most of all no RESPECT.



"I can appreciate what you have suggested, Doctor. I further agree with the Director in respect to lenity, in some isolated instances, but; it is my learned opinion that if Security shows any compassion for any convict, we may as well throw in the towel".

*** We need to facilitate cognitive developement, enhance reasoning abilities and thus lay the ground work for the adoption of a more socially acceptable sense of morality by the individuals concerned. To strive for a less egocentric individual with a more balanced vision of how the world works and the role and responsibility of the individual within that world.

The aim is to acquaint the prisoner with an alternative set of social relationships, with individuals unlike those he may have known before, with ideas and social practices which challenge long held beleifs.

Violent men play violent games because their non-violent repertoire is restricted. Even when a violent person is aware of what he does, he rarely knows what he could do instead. In fact, such a man frequently assumes that violence is the only means available, to acheive his objectives.

*** Dr. Steven Duguid
Theory & Praxis (1980)

Taken from: First report of:
The
Community Prisoner Network

In a report of the Parliamentary Subcommittee on the Penitentiary System in Canada, 1977; it is quoted as saying: "Imprisonment in Canada, where it is not simply inhumane, is the most individually destructive, psychologically crippling, and socially alienating experience that could conceivably exist within the borders of the country.

In a system that has the fullest possible effect of stripping inmates of their individuality, identity and self-worth, which provides no meaningful incentives to accomplishment and offers precious little to accomplish in any event, inmates have available to them almost none of the conventional social devices that both structure the civilized community and in a very real sense, direct and control behavior within it.

Whether or not a person has committed a criminal offence he has certain basic psychological and social needs. Included are, for example, the need for individual creativity, for order, for essential structure that defines him in relation to others, status and recognition, and for a sense of idenity & self worth. In the closed world of the penitentiary, we ignore the existence of these needs at the peril of the public at liberty".

Obviously the mode I advocate has been in context for years. The problem however, is when will such objectives be implemental. Prisons need more constructive things to do. Security ought to be clearly defined without being frivolous in its' application, such as - allowing cell block doors to be open during meals and then locking them during leisure hours. We don't need to be reminded that we are in a prison. That never escapes us. It would be more constructive to be reminded that a possibility exists to get out if we are willing.

There is a strong need to provide programs which will motivate, create a sense of achievement, and a real opportunity to improve learning and ability to cope with life situations. There is an added need for continuous prison/community contact. Community input gives an offender the opportunity to see that not all members of society are straight laced and unconcerned. The experience of being exposed to people with a genuine interest to help properly direct a convicted felon towards a better understanding of himself/herself, and to have a positive approach to life without criminal involvement, will appropriate a more conscientious human being.

People must get involved, help create a more humane prison system so those presently in the system will not wrongly influence the children of tomorrow.

BoB Doucette

* * *

"Obviously, the rule of law doesn't have any part to play in the prisons of this country".

Svend Robinson, NDP

* * *

Justice will only be achieved for all citizens when those who do not suffer injustice feel the same outrage as those who do.

_ Plato _

* * *

February 4, 1983

TOCSIN
c/o John Howard Society
Collins Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 190
Kingston, Ontario

The Editor:

It was with incredulous dismay that I recently learned of the Solicitor General's decision to cancel all post-secondary educational programs in penal institutions across the country, supposedly justified by the worsening economic conditions.

While no one can question the validity and necessity for the government to make budgetary compromises, especially in times of economic restraint, why do such cut-backs always affect the more positive aspects of our human development?

The cancellation of post-secondary educational programs--especially at the university level (an exceptionally well received and successful program introduced only one year ago)--is being viewed by university level prisoners as having the rug pulled from under our feet. It would have been far better had no such program been instituted in the first place, for now many prisoners are left with gaping holes in their plans for academic achievement or advancement, and with dashed hopes for realizing future meaningful and rewarding employment.

But perhaps the most serious and immediate consequence to result from this action is that it now completely nullifies the painstaking release plans of many conscientious prisoners who embarked, in good faith, on a realistic program for their eventual parole, focused primarily on a university education as a way out of a vicious circle known as: "the revolving door syndrome." And what of the hundreds, even thousands of other prisoners behind these few pioneers who were given false incentives to climb up through the ranks of grade school, high school, college and/or university towards a viable and contributing future in society?

...10

Such a ruthless cut-back will not add one iota to the already alarming lack of trust which exist the prisoner and a government which over--emphasizes punishment above positive human growth. Such a move can only foster more alienation, frustration, bitterness and the pointlessness of it all in the hearts and minds of prisoners who already feel stymied at every turn.

The short term "savings" which may be realized by this cut-back is a mere drop in the bucket against the real annual cost of keeping a person in prison; the long term consequences of this action is likely to have drastic, far reaching effects on the whole of society, not only in monetary terms but also in terms of human misery.

I sincerely hope that the government will have the courage and the insight to reverse this shameful and serious error.

yours truly

Peter L. Davidson

Collins Bay Institution
P.O. Box 190
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4V9

c.c. The Editor
Kingston Whig Standard
306 King Street East
Kingston, Ontario

Quaker Committee on Jails & Justice
60 Lowther Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1C7

Church Council on Justice & Corrections
Ottawa, Ontario.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER PETER

WAKE UP, HOLLANDS!

When Ernie Hollands decided to set up his halfway house for Christian Ex-convicts in Keene in February of 1983, he called a meeting to beg the support of the local residents. He stated at the meeting that he would not settle in the community if there was objection from the majority of residents. After a very long and somewhat tearful account of his life and how he was "saved", the residents still overwhelmingly objected to his proposal and he said he would go elsewhere.

The rest is a nightmare for the residents of Otonabee Township. Mr. Hollands, being unable to get in the front door by receiving the grace of the residents of Keene, slipped in the back, quietly, buying a 50 acre farm near Indian River, and contradicting his previous statement of not settling in the community where his ideas were not welcome. After this move do you think Mr. Hollands is a credible individual? I certainly don't.

I attended a meeting just recently with a few other residents, to voice our concern to Mr. Hollands and we asked him various questions concerning the operations of his house, but we got very few straight answers. He seemed somewhat confused as to what plans he would have for the house and who the ex-offenders would see, contact and associate with. When we asked his wife if she would be residing at the house, she said definitely not, as a married woman residing in a house with other men while Mr. Hollands was away was unheard of, especially because people would talk, she said.

But Mrs. Hollands is a Christian. We were told the ex-offenders that would be staying there would also be Christian. If Mrs. Hollands can't trust these "Christian" ex-offenders, how can the residents of Otonabee be expected to?

The viability of this establishment is somewhat in question also. We are told it is being funded by religious organizations, but not which ones. This is also a proposal for the first establishment of its kind in Canada. No one wants to be a test sight for anything of this nature.

I also question the reliability of the theory of the convict being prosecuted and mistreated but finally seeing "the way" through God. I think if I were to live a life of crime and were sentenced to a term in a maximum-security prison, I might tend to try something new.

The shallow disregard for the sincere fears and apprehensions of the residents of Otonabee show somewhat of an opposite attitude than that of Christianity.

con't....

As for the recent statements and letters concerning the residents and us irresponsible and uncharitable, those people should clean up their own back yards before condemning ours. I certainly admit that I am not perfect but maybe Ernie Hollands isn't either.

As a resident of Otonabee, I am proud of our close-knit community's actions against an unplanned, uncontrolled, and non-supported plan in this community that is placing undue and irresponsible mental stress and anguish on its residents.

As a councillor of Otonabee Township I am extremely proud to serve all the residents, and to fight this issue, speaking out against a man with an unplanned dream, who is trying to make it a reality for himself at the expense of a community.

Wake up, Ernie Hollands --your dream may really be a nightmare.

MIKE READER

Councillor,

Township of Otonabee

RR 7, Peterborough

* * *

What are your views on this preceding article? On the following pages are the concerns of two individuals, in the form of letters to the newspaper who ran this article. They are practicing Christianity while in the confines of Collins Bay Institution.

* * *

OUR VISIT

In caring tinder of moments;
almost selfishly,
certainly beyond our means
we must find the now to be lasting.

Just as muted sound
must be listened to closely
understood and held,
our embers of ourselves
have a strength
that demonstrates the quality of LOVE.

When the orphaned sunlight stains
through an overcast sky,
can smile with us
just sharing this good,
we leave each other in understanding.

M
David
l
g
a
a
r
d

The Editor
 Peterborough Examiner
 Hunter & Water Street
 Peterborough, Ontario

Dear Editor:

With Ottawa claiming that it costs between \$47,000 & \$63,000 to house inmates in a Federal Prison for one year, one would think that the public would be thrilled at the prospect of any plan to alleviate such cost. Not so! At least not the people in the town of Keene, Ontario.

It seems that one responsible resident of Peterborough, Mr. Ernie Hollands, decided he would do something constructive about the problem. He attempted to open a half-way house in Keene; with his own funds. He approached the town council and in good faith he told them he would only proceed with their consent. The people of Keene, said NO! Mr. Hollands, true to his word, cancelled plans for a house in Keene. However, not one to give up easily, he & his board of directors purchased 50 acres of property 10 miles outside of Keene. But ten miles isn't far enough say the good people of Keene and they hired a lawyer to see if they can put more distance between Mr. Hollands & his half-way house. (Most major cities realize their responsibility towards the reintegration of ex-offenders back into society. Half-way houses are by far the least expensive way to house people who are about to re-enter the community).

Offenders who qualify for a half-way house are carefully screened. First by the CPS, then by the National Parole Board and finally by committees organized by house staff who visit regularly at the Federal Institutions before approval for transfer to a half-way house can be affected. This accounts for the high success rate.

The house Mr. Hollands proposed to establish has another significant element in its favor. It is a half-way house exclusively for offenders who have become Christians while incarcerated. That means only sincere offenders whose actions have shown a true change of heart need apply. After reviewing the application for acceptance to this house; I can assure the public that there will be no rush on the part of the prisoner to apply, unless they have had a true change of heart. Not many prisoners are interested in working on a farm.

I'm truly happy that not all Canadians have the same uncharitable and most irresponsible attitude as the " White Robed " people of Keene. Some offenders have earned the privilege of acceptance into a half-way house by demonstrating responsibility. Demonstrate your responsibility by allowing these people to become productive members of society once again.

Daryl Gellner

...14

The Editor
 Peterborough Examiner
 Hunter & Water Streets
 Peterborough, Ontario

Dear Editor:

"Shouldn't We Help Prisoners Reintegrate Back Into Society"

It never ceases to amaze me how society reacts to prisoners being released into their towns and cities. I've yet to be able to understand how society can put a person in prison and then openly and coldly refuse to admit to themselves that society is responsible for assisting that person upon release from prison when trying to re-adjust to community life.

Are We Really That Naive And Ignorant To The Needs Of Human Beings

A few years ago the half-way house concept, for helping ex-prisoners adjust to community life came into affect in Canada. The idea behind this concept was so the community would have some input into assisting a person reestablish his/her credibility as a productive member of society. How can one criticize when the opportunity is there for us to help and we don't.

Ernie Hollands, a Christian ex-prisoner, is planning to open a half-way house for Christians coming out of Canada's Penitentiaries. But Ernie is feeling the Heavy Hand of society. The people of Keene, Ontario are fighting the idea of a half-way house being in or around their area. Ernie has bought a farm 10 miles away from Keene and the people are still fighting him. I would say this is certainly going out of the way to try and hamper one man's hope and unselfish desire to help people who obviously need help. One man with more fortitude and compassion than an entire community.

The Apostle James wrote in his Epistle; (James 3:18), "the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace". Christians are peace makers and Christian people are being released from our jails and penitentiaries. They stand on the word GOD, preaching against drug-abuse, alcoholism, any breech of the law and in total all things which are for the good of mankind. Isn't this what all communities need TODAY?

I suggest to you, the people of Keene, that it most certainly is a NEED and that your town could benefit from the experience of helping these particular individuals re-adjust to a productive life in the outside world.

Byll Shannon

...15

RECIPE OF LIFE

Life is a bowl of dignity,
Sprinkled with some pride,
Just a dash of respect,
And a heart of gold inside.

Don't look upon your neighbour,
With dishonesty and hate,
For what their going through,
Could someday be your fate.

Guide and respect each other,
Let's all join hand in hand,
Together we can beat the odds,
If we all take a stand.

God created us as equals,
Not to be torn apart,
So put some pride and dignity,
Into each and every heart.

Learn to forgive and forget,
Above all learn to LOVE,
Your prayers will be answered,
From the good Lord up above.

I'm not saying anyone,
Can change things over night,
But can't we work together,
And try to make things right.

Love, prayer and laughter,
Are part of this recipe,
With all this mixed together,
This country will be free.

Free of hatred and sadness,
And free of all it's sorrow,
And together we can make,
A better World tomorrow.

THANK GOD I'M NORMAL

Nothing to do,
Nothing to say,
Its going to be,
Another boring day.

But I won't let it,
Get me down,
I'll wear a smile,
Instead of a frown.

Someone's worst off,
Then I'll ever be,
I can walk,
And I can see.

I have my hearing,
And I can speak,
I know my brains,
Aren't mentally weak.

I have my limbs,
And you can bet,
There isn't a job,
That I haven't done yet.

After thinking about this,
All day today,
I thank God,
I am this way.

I have no right,
To say I'm bored,
Nothing to do,
The tasks ignored.

For if I were crippled,
Had nothing to do,
I'd be sitting here 'thinking,
Wishing I were YOU.

*** by: Valerie Morrison ***

" A Few Moments of Happiness "

It was a hard day, we all have them! After a heated discussion with a guard, which is better than fighting with him; and then returning to my cell to find it a mess because they decided to conduct one of their famous cell searches, I was hard bent for leather. Patience is a virtue and after being tested, I managed to maintain my usual disposition. I went in to my cell, cleaned up and then lapsed on to my bunk to relax and think. After count, jug up was called. I decided to pass as I didn't want to see any of the everyday faces right now. Like its really tough on a guy mentally at times. I for one would rather have the physical brutality rather than the mental anguish. Were not animals!!!



Never mind the Warden's directives....it takes months to get clearance....this is Christmas..
NOW MOVE OUT !

After such a day it was quite easy for me to drift off into a deep sleep. Sleeping is nice, thats a part of your time you don't have to do. I sometimes wish they could put us all to sleep and just wake us when our time is up, but that would ruin it for all the extra suffering we're suppose to go through. It is definitely not because we'd miss out on some fantastic rehabilitation course, for no one gets rehabilitated here. Your actually lucky if you can come out of this atmosphere, normal. So dreamland is where its at for me right now, and they can't stop me from that.

All of a sudden I'm awakened and I automatically jumped up in my defense, because people aren't suppose to come into your cell, so your always on your guard. With my arm raised, ready to defend myself, I suddenly see my mother. What a mind boggler!! She asks me to come downstairs. My niece and nephew are opening their presents and she knows how much I love to watch people's expressions, (especially kids) when opening their gifts. Its Christmas morning and my family makes certain we are all together for this time of year. I slip on a pair of pants and join my family for this special occasion. My sister has never changed in this category, as she enjoys surprises just as much as her two kids. My brother-in-law is happy to see the family happy and together. Mom of course is happy just to have us all together. After the place is a mess and the kids are playing with their new toys, I decide to phone some friends to wish them the best. These are priviledges I wasn't allowed before. I phone Timmins first, to speak to a dear friend who helped me during my hard times, then all my friends and relatives in Ottawa. Its so nice to be free and not have all the tension around me. I'm firmly convinced that man was not meant to be kept in a cage.

It was an exhausting morning. I excuse myself to take a nap. I go back up to the spare room I was sleeping in at my famly's place and fall in to a deep sleep as soon as my head hits the pillow. I couldn't have been asleep for more than 10 minutes when a fellow prisoner came in screaming, I jump up in defense again; "Nick" he says, "your buddy just got piped". I'm not home, I'm not free, I'm still in this hell hole. The tension builds up and it always seems to get worse. I wish I could have slept forever, but we have to pay our dues through mental anguish. At least I was home for a short while, even if it was through a dream. One thing is for certain; they have to let me go sometime. I only hope it doesn't make me bitter and full of hate, because thats all we learn here.

Nick Malham
(prisoner)

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

Collins Bay Chapter

The Collins Bay Chapter, has been in operation for its 6TH year. A body of approximately 120 cons and several community volunteers combine their efforts each Thursday night, they deliberate issues of concern, to every person who comes into conflict with the law.

Each year new policies, reform models, parole criteria, to name a few changes, which is all part of our concern, are placed into effect. The John Howard Society of Kingston, have been very resourceful in providing information on various subjects, to help us interpret the fine print.

Together, theres been some accomplishment; we've made a little headway. We must continue to pull together. Eradicate old trends, which are ineffectual and assure they are replaced with well founded, ameliorative reform methods. Crime is often sensationalized by the media, in theatres, novels, on television and radio. It is our position to generate a more realistic understanding of the cause and effect of crime.

At present our chapter is envolved with a prisoner information service. An active member of the inside chapter holds this office. He assists the population upon request, in areas such as; the filing of applications for transfer, parole or temporary absense. He aids in the writing of any corespondence and supplies information on the general practice of the institution.

The inside chapter is also envolved with a Pre-release & Awareness Program, held each Monday night. An active member co-ordinates. Such practices as role playing, positive employment searching, goal setting, relaxation techniques, mock parole hearings and the like, are part of the curriculum.

We are further envolved in public speaking at area high schools. A program, which has already been exercised and viewed as a worthy project. Although we have had very little co-operation from administration, insomuch as the granting of escorted or unescorted temporary absense is concerned. They claim that budget cuts will not permit allocating money for escorts. It seems that whenever a program appears to have good effect for both the public and the prisoner, some form of restraint is exercised. Most commonly it is finance or security. Both of which would hold water about as well as a basket. con't.

We would like to urdge our readers and the John Howard Society of Canada, to write letters, to people and places where it would be most effective, in our support to have the C.S.C. policy makers adopt a more liberal community volunteer excess to prisons and prisoner volunteers to the community.

We advocate that this type of relation has a tremendous impact on the prisoner. Inter-action with the community, be it inside or outside, gives the prisoner an opportunity to exercise a different role than prison atmosphere allows. The more frequently a person takes on a more socially exceptable role, the more likely that he/she will adopt this role. He becomes less apprehensive to voice an opinion. He can be constructively challenged on his beleifs. He has an opportunity to listen and learn of life situations and to express his own without feeling the crux of persecution. Community socialization, tends to enfluence the prisoner, "unknowingly", to maintain proper composure and demeanor.

On the other hand, public speaking has its own value. A person goes through much preparation, researching facts, polishing up the subject material, and most of all the challenge against confidence and inhibitions. We really want to do our part to stop this revolving door syndrome. Sincerely motivated individuals are the ones who volunteer to do public speaking. Trouble is; they remain volunteers for they never get the opportunity to exercise their will.

Untitled - for Barb

The sky opens
to a small bird's sun song
breaking this rain puddled day
and everything reaches up
in the lines of light
splayed so wide
so warm.

A fresh air swallowed raindrop
a hapstance
from the leaf of a giant oak tree
relished
in the pride of these worn out words
that fall easily
just like the rain.

David Milgaard

July 12, 1983

...20



THINK ABOUT IT.....?

It has only been a short time since my introduction to the Canadian Penitentiary System. My heart and mind have been burdened with the plight of many individuals and their loved ones, who are caught up in the web of this destructive monster.

Many of us get on the treadmill of crime, with no hope of ever getting off until its too late. We die or get recycled into society with our survival capacities diminished. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The solution - be it what it may - lies with tackling the problem from the source.

I strongly believe that people live and learn, what they are exposed to. The bible quotes; "Train a child in the way he should grow, so that when he is old, he will not depart from it." What went wrong?

In my time I have heard so many parents and guardians say; "How or where did I go wrong?" They never seem to have the answer. Society has conditioned many of us to pass the buck--referring to, blame it on someone else. The parents blame society, society blame the parents, the children blame society and the parents. It is time for everyone, society, parents and us, to become responsible for the cause. We need to answer the question and we should all share the blame.

The problem would appear to be with all of us. We are products of a corrupt environment. There is corruption at all levels of society but who do you think suffers most? It must be stated here that society is made up of many complex components - components made by man to form a workable institution, in which man can control his own destiny. However it has been proven that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. How can we have a just society if the self-righteous and unjust control its every development and growth.

I am not saying that the original plan was designed not to do good - but whose good are we most concerned about? - The good of all mankind, the good of the majority, or for the good of "us" as a minority. Upon close observation, the good of all mankind has not been met; for in our established system, are many distressing statistics of men and women who have been destroyed because of lack of knowledge or limited resources in search of success and happiness. - Is it for the good of the majority? Existing statistics show, that public opinion agrees that the majority does not benefit. We read, see and hear it every day through the media. Is it for the good of a minority - US. Definitely not. This would be a band-aid approach to the problem at hand. It would appear to be excepted reasoning that, "One bad apple will spoil the lot", therefore let us segregate the minority - that is "convicted criminals". This is no solution.

Many of you are protected from the harsh reality of prison life and its effect. I beg you to enlighten yourselves, do some research; get involved with established community agencies, or form your own. Do not depend on the censored local newspaper, television, or radio to learn the reality of this situation. For the good of all mankind, YOU must get involved.

Society has always resented change. You have become complacent and in defeat claim - it is not your problem !! It is your problem - it is your hard earned tax dollars that finance and propagate this multi-million dollar industry; namely, our Penal System. You finance this business to guarantee the expansion and final victory of this monster. RECIDIVISM - that is the revolving door syndrome of our penitentiary system, stresses that the solution is only a fantasy, under the existing conditions.

Society must indeed be protected. The Abolition of Prison, and the implementation of practical alternatives, would have to go through a controlled transition period. More money should be spent with the emphasis on re-establishing the moderate offender to a way of life, that would benefit the community to which he/she will return, rather than in creating additional establishments to warehouse them.

Prison restricts growth; unknown fears surface, knowledge of crime supersedes knowledge of life skills and basic survival skills are sharpened. Survival skills, once embedded in a person's mind; after being schooled for a long period of time in a prison atmosphere, do not deter or rehabilitate, but has conditioned the individual to survive against the enemy who eventually wears the face of SOCIETY. Deterrence, rehabilitation or the present opportunities model are inconsequential, if non-existent. Prisoners become pre-occupied in doing what ever is necessary to regain their freedom. There are no avenues to upgrade their moral values or change their attitude toward society, which was supposedly the object of their incarceration in the first place.

Personal prison experience has shown me that basic human values become distorted. You learn to survive, day to day, as if you were in a jungle. You wonder if you will ever get out alive; you learn to hate, resent love; trust and loyalty become empty words. Strength of character and individuality are measured in muscles and violence, not communication and understanding; kindness is abused and considered a weakness; and Might is Right. Are these the human values we want to re-introduce into our society? Ponder these thoughts awhile....help us find a solution. It is time for all of mankind, the majority, the minority and yes; US - to wake up and do something about the problem.

Many community agencies, such as the John Howard Society of Canada, the St. Leonard Society of Canada, the Salvation Army, Elizabeth Fry Society, many affiliated Christian groups and Inmate Organizations, have already started the treadmill in the right direction. Your spiritual, financial and personal commitment will guarantee an awakening in the hearts and minds of the powers that be; to work together towards change. A change which will truly embody the meaning and true spirit of our constitution - which guarantees freedom and dignity for all.

I thank the John Howard Society, Collins Bay Chapter, for this opportunity to voice an opinion. I do hope the thoughts expressed will provide & foster your positive responses. My prayer is that; with time a total understanding of our cause for freedom and dignity, will become a reality.

J.D. Lewis •

(ex-offender)

"Oh, what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive!"

—Sir Walter Scott
Marmion, A tale of Flodden Field
1808



" I think that my New Year's
resolution will be to rehabilitate
myself."

" Do you think Kaplan will allow it?"

THE SOCIOLOGY OF PENAL SYSTEMS

Punishment in not the Question

By:

Lynne VanDalen

"Go into your bathroom and close the door. Pretend that the bath is your bed, the shitbox your chair, and the sink is your desk. Try living in there for awhile". Those were the words of a prisoner at the Collins Bay Penitentiary trying to portray the conditions under which he lived. Quite certainly, most of us would not last very long in this experimental condition that the prisoner has described. Under these type of conditions it appears unquestionable that prisons are for punishment regardless of the perspective or ideology one espouses.

The following pages will illustrate that prisons are indeed for punishment and not as punishment and that the dispute over this is not the crux of the problem. The crux of the problem is why do prisons exist?

The functionalist perspective will be compared with that of the Marxian perspective and their respective views as to why prisons exist, will be expounded.

Offenders are sent to prison as punishment for having committed an offense against society. The act of isolating the offender from the free community is unpleasant (and intended), it is perceived as being punishment in and of itself. However as we live in a democratic, capitalist society in which individuals place a great value on liberty, freedom of movement, personal possessions and material achievements; offenders, as well as too few non-offenders see prisons not only as punishment but for punishment. The act of simply being incarcerated is not the end of punishment for the punishment is prolonged and continual while inside the prison - taking the form of both physical and mental punishment.

* * *

A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a government. Kites rise against the wind, not with it.

* * *

"By being incarcerated the prisoner is rejected by Society. He is deprived of his personal possessions and material achievements which are linked with the ideas of personal worth. In prison the prisoner is reduced to a level of living near bare subsistence and the physical discomforts which this deprivation can entail has significant psychological effects on the prisoner's impression of his personal worth".

Radzinowicz, Wolfgang. 1971

Psychological effects are also stimulated by deprivation; of several other types. Punishment of imprisonment occurs through the deprivation of liberty both by confinement to the institution and confinement within the institution. While in prison, few basic needs are met - food, shelter, clothing - and therefore there exists the deprivation of material goods and services, which is punishment both physically and mentally, because of the ideals of a democratic, capitalist society. The deprivation of heterosexual relationships exists since prisons are homogeneously organized. This deprivation again leads to intense psychological effects because the individual can no longer confirm his sexuality. Deprivation of autonomy is apparent through the fact that a prisoner is subject to a vast body of rules and regulation which are designed to control his behavior in minute detail. Not only do rules and commands originate from the institution but also from the existence of the "inmate code" to which the prisoner must adhere. This causes the loss of his ability to condition the rules by which he would like to exist. Finally, as a result of a greater potential for violent acts of aggression and exploitation occurring within the prison, with no escape from it, it leads to deprivation of security. From this loss of security the prisoner acquires acute anxiety because the violent behavior continually tests the prisoner's ability to cope with it.

Clearly then, the act of sending offenders to prison is not simply as punishment but for punishment. It seems unconceivable how one could argue otherwise. So, the argument of whether prisons are for punishment is a petty one. The important question is: Why do prisons exist?

Functionalists will argue that prisons are needed for rehabilitation, deterrence, incapacitation and restitution. The offender is sent to prison to be morally educated, through punishment, that his act was wrong. His punishment was used as a tool to deter others. Through the idea of deterrence, moral inhibitions and the need for obedience of law in order to avoid punishment - the idea of social accountability evolved. Not only was punishment by imprisonment designed to deter people, but the labour in prison had come to be seen as something that could be "useful" and a means of training prisoners for post-release vocations, as well as being unpleasant, hard, and monotonous in order to serve its deterrent, retributive function. The functionalist perspective sees prisons as necessary because they see crime as an inevitable phenomenon of society, & that the causes of crime are located within the individual.

Marxists will agree with the functionalist, that the causes for crime are indeed as a result of the environment in which people find themselves; but have no further points of common agreement. Marxists argue that the cause for crime occurs from the environment created by the capitalist system and the purpose of prisons are simply for the maintenance of the capitalist system.

How can one justify a penal system and the existence of prisons by the functionalist's argument that it is rehabilitative, deterrent, incapacitative and restitutive? Crime continues to occur, a significant recidivism rate exists and society is unsatisfied that justice has been done. Marxians would answer that it is because the functionalist's focus on the reasons for crime. Rather than looking for the cause of crime in the individual, one must look at the political and economic system. Crime will only disappear when the political and economic system which exists under the capitalists disappears.

"The state was...an active participant in that it held down the working classes and provoked them to crime. Changes in the law or penal systems were beside the point. It was society itself that must be revolutionized".

"This basic transformation of society will virtually eradicate crime for the following reasons: material property, that great cause of economic criminality and the major source of demoralization, of alcoholism and of prostitution, of bad housing and of chronic family neglect will be swept away".

Radzinowicz, Wolfgang

The functionalists argue that prisons exist and serves the function of retribution, incapacitation, rehabilitation and deterrence for the "defense" and maintenance of society, and place the emphasis on the prisoner's treatment, for his mal-adjustment. The Marxian perspective, sees the purpose and existence of prisons as quite different - suggesting that it is for the maintenance of a capitalist system. On examining the relative unsuccessfulness of prison policies which are advocated by the functionalist, and the continuance of crime, it seems unquestionable that the Marxian perspective is the one to advocate. Emphasis must be placed on the changing of the economic and political system to solve the problem of crime and the need for prisons.

John Howard Society
of Kingston
Community Volunteer
Lynne VanDalen



" Don't worry he'll be back — wait till
he sees the prices out there."

FOR WANT OF AN HONEST TO GOODNESS OPPORTUNITY

As editor of Tocsin I chose to run the preceding article by Lynne VanDalen, not because I support the ideologies of Marxians intrinsically but because of the invariable truth it delivers insomuch as crime and its cause is concerned. In my 32 years of life I have never dared to speak-out politically for fear of being labeled a radical - be it as it may, lets tell some more truth.

My grandparents, ages 75-80, respectively - are still alive and live in poverty. They are God-fearing, law abiding people. No other member of my family of any generation has ever committed a felony. Be it my grand-folks or their many children or their children's children, save me. My parents, ages 50-55, are alive and live in poverty. Myself, age 32, has lived in poverty - my sons, ages 11-13, live in poverty.

I do not suggest revolutionizing the whole political and economical structure of this country but I would suggest that some changes are direly needed to effect the under privileged; if we are ever to see a decline in crime and prison growth.

At the instance of birth, Canadians have no guaranty of the future. If the parents do not provide proper guidance towards a positive opportunity; where, during the developemental years does an individual make it for himself.

I cannot relive, I cannot change the early years of my life but I can certainly recall it. Thirteen years old - having borrowed a friend's bicycle overnight and his mother pressing charges of theft against me - landed me in a reformatory. Since then - Guelph, for having stolen groceries to feed two families who shared accommodation - 14 school aged kids whose family left them for a two week party in Toronto. Burwash, theft and possession of stolen goods - we thought it was the thing to do. Warkworth, fraud - first Christmas with wife and two kids - two months arrears in rent - eviction notice - no Christmas tree - no presents - something had to be done. Collins Bay, trafficking marijuana - it wasn't stealing - everybody wanted it. Collins Bay, bank robbery - STOP!!

Am I deranged? - Am I stupid? - Have I ever had an opportunity - a real honest to goodness opportunity? - Who am I? - What happened?

con't

Reformatory, grade eight - 86% average. Warkworth, grade nine - "B" average. Collins Bay, grade ten through to twelve-honours. I learned I wasn't stupid - I was capable - I was encouraged. Upon release I enrolled at Conostoga College - Civil Engineering - completed first year. Received loans and grants through Ontario Student Association Program. (OSAP) - Federal government granted \$1,800. - loaned \$1,500. - Provincial government loaned \$1,700. - balance at end of first year \$3,100. Municipal government took the balance. - Why? - court order - judgement from car rental agency from 5 years before. How on earth could one government give me such a worldly opportunity and a lesser government take it back - everything - took the carpet right from under my feet. It was despicable - family hopes and dreams diminished - 28 years old before I see the inside of a college. It wasn't my parents who provided me with a way and means to get there. It was many youthful years of confusion and then many years of prison where I schooled myself and finally learned that I wasn't the bum or the idiot my alcoholic step-father considered me to be. It was my desire to get ahead and taken advantage of an honest to goodness opportunity like OSAP that got me there. But now what? - no money - frustration - fury - back on the streets - no future - lousy jobs - criminal record - ROBBERY.

What was wrong with me? I had taken psychology so I could rationalize with this kind of problem. I had taken sociology so I could properly apply for work and inter-act with people and cope with ignorance. I had taken philosophy so I could better understand ideals and a true right from wrong. I had taken anthropology to get a grip on the empirical data revelant to evolution. I had taken an engineering course so I could have a future and where am I? Collins Bay Penitentiary.

Am I deranged? - Am I stupid? - Have I ever had an opportunity - a real honest to goodness opportunity? - Read on.....

★ ★ ★

"One is never as fortunate or unfortunate as one imagines!"

★ ★ ★

"The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances" Aristotle

Since I've been in Collins Bay, I have taken business, marketing, advertising and sales - still trying to make way for that "golden opportunity". With my criminal record; what do you think my chances are Society?

There is no doubt in my mind that if a government had provided my grandparents with an honest to goodness opportunity, they would have been able to provide my parents with an honest to goodness opportunity, and my parents could have provided me with an honest to goodness opportunity and I could provide my sons with an honest to goodness opportunity instead of worrying about the trouble the oldest of my boys are in with the law.

Ladies and gentlemen, you cannot ignore it any longer. Your hard earned money - turned into tax dollars is financing a multi-million dollar industry of warehousing perishable and fragile human beings who only require an honest to goodness opportunity to provide them with a way of life. Can you imagine the business I could prosper from if I had the opportunity to have access to the \$350,000.00 its going to cost to keep me here.....to do what and become what???

* * *

A little Maritime Humor

.....back in my younger days while living at home I made acquaintance with this old trapper named Joe. Now Joe was a very witty man but he had never acquired a formal education. For years old Joe had him a moonshine still. The horsemen tried unsuccessfully to nab old Joe in the act, but wise old Joe never left his still in one spot for very long. Finally as fate would have it, the RCMP found his equipment. Old Joe was arrested and charged with, "Possession of equipment for the purposes of producing illegal alcohol". When old Joe got into court, the Judge looked down at him with a sorrowful frown and asked, "Joe; how do you plead to this charge"? Old Joe, scratching his bald head, pondered for a moment and replied, "Your Honour, how much time does a man get in this country for RAPE?" The judge, now becoming very concerned; for he had known Joe all his life, leaned forward and in an almost whispered voice, said to Joe, "Joe, you didn't rape someone did you?" To which sly old Joe answered, "No your honour, but I've got the equipment.....

solitude can be a very
introspective experience.....it
gives you an oppotunity to
reevaluate your priorities.
Being alone you get a better
focus on who you are....and most
of all it helps you to better
appreciate not being alone.....



JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

Join in our merry company
Open your heart, let it be free
Having a hard time on your own
Now that you find your all alone

Has your mind in such a jumble
One step from a stumble
Wishing someone would lend a hand
And help you, to make a stand
Restoring faith in yourself is hard
Determined to keep up your guard

Sometimes you feel like lashing out
Over pressures and times of doubt
Conscious though that you must try
Inspecting all the reasons why
Encouraged by new friends you found
Together things will turn around
You have in John Howard a special friend
Who will be there to the end.

By: *** Rose Hemick ***

A Letter to our Chapter

Dear Friends,

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Diana and I presently live in Kingston, Ontario. I moved here from Germany, Europe in July, 1982.

I'd like to tell you how I first got involved with Nick Malham and the John Howard Society. Sometime around June or July there was an advertisement in the, "Kingston This Week" - telling us about the project Nick Malham and Moe Lauzon were doing, which was going to the schools and speaking with the teen-agers about prison life and to stay out of trouble. They asked if we (the public) had any questions, if so to write to them.

I was interested, so I started to write to Nick and the John Howard Society expressing an interest in what they were doing and offered help if they wanted it. Before long I was receiving letters every other day from Nick. I asked if other people would write to me, and no doubt I got letters from other people, telling me from their point of view what they thought of prison life.

I asked Nick if I could go to Collins Bay to visit him. He agreed to the idea, only I wasn't put on his personal visiting list. He felt that everyone should be able to receive my friendship. I don't know what the name of that kind of visit is. Anyway, it took awhile before I got into Collins Bay but the day came when Nick phoned me at my home, to inform me I was cleared to go in.

I was first shocked then very excited. When I drove up to the Pen. my excitement and fear increased. I never was so close to the Pen. When I drove by it on the highway I felt sort of weak and now I was going inside the Pen. As I got through the main door I steadily became weak. Reality hit me when I heard the metal gates close. It was so cold and so damn empty. I think that bothered me the most. I went through the last cold gate. and paused and looked down the long hallway. As I started to walk my legs were like jelly. It was the longest walk I ever did. con't

The big moment was when I entered the meeting room. I felt like a peice of meat on display. I quickly sar down on the nearest chair and looked around. I was shocked by the people in there. I expected big, mean, ugly looking men. Was I wrong. There just normal looking men. Some are quite attractive. I was very nervous and it showed. When the meeting ended and I walked back out, I knew I was going to go back. I had so much enjoyment out of it, you'll never know how I felt.

In that meeting I found out that the men were far more re-spectful than the men on the outside. I felt appreciated there. I've never felt that from the people outside.

Presently, I am still attending the meetings and receive a great satisfaction from it. I enjoy myself immensely and my message to you is - there are people on the outside who are for the people on the inside.

* * *

A friend,

D i a n a

" To My Dearest Love "

There aren't enough words,
to tell you I love you.

Not enough ways,

FROG

to show you I care.

FROG

Not enough laughter,

C

and good times to wish you.

C

A

Not enough wonderful,

A

R

moments to share.

R

O

A million bright mornings,

O

L

would not be too many.

L

I

Warm evenings together,

I

N

would still be too few.

N

E

I want you and need you,

E

so much that it seems;

FROG

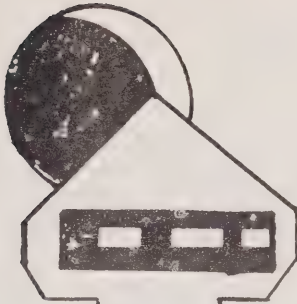
there aren't enough days,

FROG

in a lifetime with you.

Andy (frog) Gagnon 1983

OUTLAWS



THUNDER DREAM (II)

Pale moon rises over prison wall
blue sky turns to black...
Thunder Dream Spirit comes to life
once more to take me back...

Silver bird flying on wings of silence
takes me in its grip
Thru the black of night at speeds unknown
another dream world trip...

Old friend appears in a surprising way
silver bird emits a cry...
Drops me into a pillow of satin
lighting dances across the sky...

Silky lenghts of long dark hair
enfold me like a promise...
The moments take place
no words are spoken...
No words are needed
emotions fill the spaces...

Rest gives way to another day
reality returns too soon...
Whatever came alive
in the dark of night dies...
Black sky turns to grey
reality is waking up...
Inside the walls
of Collins Bay...

1
9
8
3

Daniel
TRIBAL WAYS
Brotherhood

"FACTS"

Three members of the J.H.S., Collins Bay Chapter, had the pleasure of going to speak to students at another school on Nov. 25TH. We were well received. Billy Harris, Bob MacBeth and myself (Nick Malham) took pleasure in telling these students some facts. There are two other schools who have requested us to do additional talks in early '84'. I'm sure there will be more too. This is a worthwhile project and the guys who go beleive in what their doing.

We went to Sharbot Lake High School this time. Mr. Don Goodridge - the Vice-principal - was most co-operative with us. The school was out in the sticks some 45 miles outside of Kingston, but they still have the same problems and the same curiosities as the kids in the city. We talked to students from grade 7 to grade 13. I'm sure that each and everyone of them retained something out of the day. The main point is that we found that these kids can relate to us. We don't want them to come in here and I'm sure that even the toughest of those kids don't want to end up here. All we really do is give these students facts of what actually happens when you take the wrong path in life. If anyone should know, it is us!

Billy explained that he quit school in grade 8, and without a proper education, he couldn't get hired at a proper job and eventually turned to crime. Bob gave the facts about drugs in his life, which wasn't very pleasant. I told the facts about peer pressure, and that more family communication is necessary. Our parents are not always right, but then again neither are we. What I don't understand about the generation today is that many are trying to be someone else. If people don't like you the way you are, then I would suggest you travel different cirles, was my main theme.

In closing I would like to say a special thanks to everyone of Sharbot Lake High School for being such good listeners and for showing a sincere concern for us personally. It was obvious that these students (and teachers) were not only curious about us, but also about the system. We can't change the system, but we can change ourselves! So we must get out and stay out, and since you aren't in here YET, by best advice would be not to visit this Hotel. And that's a fact!

Nick Malham

'7532'

" YOU "

When my mind was troubled,
my hopes were dim,
You came along.
You eased the pain,
revived me again,
You made me feel less grim.

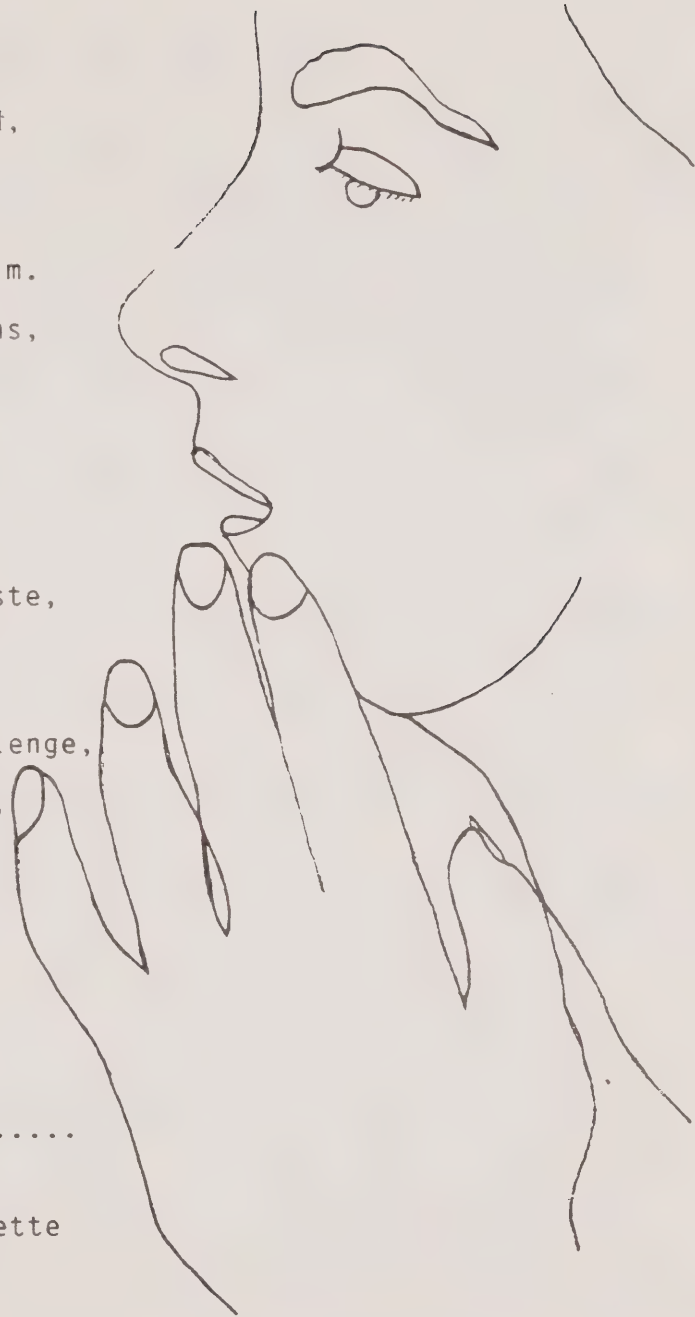
When I thought my emotions,
could no longer be toyed,
such as it was,
when I was a boy,
You came along.
My feelings deployed.

When all I could see,
had no colour or taste,
mind and body kept in waste,
You came along.
With colours so bright,
in dreams at night.

When the day had no challenge,
and time had no count,
when all of these things,
had me in doubt,
You came along.
You helped me out.

Be it silly or serious,
joyful or sad,
I took account,
the days that I've had,
You came along.
Old memories erased,
You took their place.....

BoB Doucette
7382



A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE PAY SYSTEM

In April of 1981 the Correctional Service of Canada (C.S.C.) introduced a revised system for paying inmates which, over the course of time, has become known as the "New Pay Package". This new system was intended to alleviate many of the inconsistencies and inequalities that had plagued the old system.

Up until April of 81, inmates had been paid (accumulated money) in a number of ways: firstly, there was the 'wage' they earned for participating in the activities of work, counselling, etc., as ordered by the C.S.C.; secondly, there was a variety of 'bonuses' for increased production and enthusiastic participation. These two were more or less contingent on behavior and represented a direct control over prisoners and their lives, as did the small amount deducted from their earnings to be set aside as 'savings' for use upon release. In addition an inmate also had access to money via contributions of friends and family who could deposit money to his credit with the institution. This was known as 'front money', and could be used to purchase approved items such as subscriptions, sports wear, art supplies, etc. Thus, at the time of implementation of the new pay package, an inmate had at his disposal three types of accounts: Canteen, Savings and Front Money. This latter meant that the canteen account need only be used for the purchase of items available at the canteen outlet. Prices at the canteen were kept low so that the low 'wages' would be sufficient to purchase those necessities/luxuries (depending on your point of view) not supplied by the C.S.C., i.e. tobacco, stamps, soap, pens, writing paper and other such health & comfort items.

In essence (and as has been noted in other writings) this 'wage' was more an 'allowance' than a true wage with its connotations of real value given for real value received.

In any event, this old system was seen to have many inherent faults, not the least of which was that it didn't allow for a reasonable accumulation of savings for use at the time of release. The new system, supposedly based on the current minimum wage of \$3.50/hr., sought to eliminate this and other problems, through a wage structure and management plan more reflective of those to be found on the street. As a first step, the Front Money account was abolished; henceforth, inmates would have to support themselves solely on what they earned at their jobs. Each job received a number, had a built in system of raises (based on time, attitude and production), as well as an integral and compulsory savings requirement of 25%. It is this last point that is the new package's strongest recommendation: without doubt inmates do have...

more money upon release than they did heretofore. But at what cost?

At the time of implementation, some inmates 'lost' money, some 'gained'; cigarettes cost approximately \$4.50 a carton and stamps went for 17¢ apiece. Other items were priced proportionally. We were assured that, given half a chance, this new system would address all the problems so evident in the old system, and would see us through the coming years. However, a recent 'straw poll' revealed the following:

12 inmates were interviewed as to their wages and disposable income. Between them they earned a maximum of \$411.00 per week period - presuming no deductions for non-attendance, visits, shutdowns, etc.... From this, it can be seen that each inmate had an average gross income of \$34.25 per pay period. From this, 25% must be deducted for savings, \$1.00 deducted for the Inmate Welfare Fund, and 30¢ per worked day for recreational or entertainment purposes, leaving a net, spendable income of \$21.69 per 14 day period. Hardly a 'scientific' survey, but indicative of the situation.

Nearly three years after implementation cigarettes now cost \$9.00 or more a carton (depending on brand), an increase of 100%, and stamps have risen to 32¢ each, an increase of better than 100%. Other items have risen accordingly; and this does not take into account that this money must also fund other purchases, i.e. television sets, radios, running shoes, sports wear, etc..., previously paid for from the Front Money account.

\$21.69 allows for the purchase of two cartons of cigarettes, 10 stamps, with 49¢ left over to save for a TV set, running shoes, leisure clothes, whatever.

To be honest, certain adjustments have been made. The inmate is now allowed to withdraw up to \$100.00 per year from his savings account to assist in the purchase of specific major items. Christmas Bags also come out of the savings account; and a recent Commissioner's Directive now precludes compulsory savings (upon request) for inmates until the last five years of their sentence. This directive also increases the amount permitted for spending on education from the savings account.

Undoubtedly, they are steps in the right direction, a recognition by the C.S.C. that no plan, regardless of its ultimate aims, is perfect. But having said that, it is just as clear that these steps to alleviate hardships faced by prisoners represent the very 'complications' that the new package was designed to circumvent. But more to the point it is just as obvious that more adjustments will be necessary in the future. Prices, unfortunately, go up, not down!

Ideally, and perhaps naively, the immediate solution might be to admit to a mistake and scrap the new package entirely. But the package does have some workable and beneficial aspects - particularly in regards the money available upon release. A more reasonable solution, therefore, might lie in 'fine tuning' the existing package in ways somewhat similar to efforts already instituted to address specific problem areas.

One method might be to re-instate the front money account - at least to a limited degree. This would serve a double purpose: first, it would reduce the demands placed on the canteen account; and secondly, it would remove for the moment any need to consider an across the board pay raise.

Another solution might be to further open the savings account and permit a second \$100.00 withdrawal per year (for major purchases). This would, to a degree, reduce the money available upon release, but it would also reduce the demands placed on the overburdened canteen account. It must be seen that to expect a man, regardless of his crimes, to live on a mere subsistence level for years and years, then return to society a 'changed' man is more than a little naive. It's plain foolishness!

A third method might be to scrap the package in its present form, but retain the overall theoretical concept. That is to say, actually pay each inmate the going minimum wage then make deductions for room & board, medical, U.I.C., etc..., and let him spend what's left over. He would, at least be somewhat covered by U.I.C. upon release, and this might be further augmented by direct payment of a specific but limited amount by the C.S.C.

A fourth way might be to retain the package in either its present form or such modified form as may be later determined, but insert a COLA-type clause which would then automatically cover price increases as they occurred.

The list goes on and on; there are any number of ways to accomplish an equitable readjustment. The question arises, however, as to why the government as representatives of the community as a whole should be bothered. After all, aren't we prisoners the author's of our own misfortune? Shouldn't we just shut-up and be grateful for what we have? It is a time of restraint, and we are, at least, clothed and fed.

It would, I suppose be simple enough to let it go at that (and many will), but the stated purpose of the new pay package is to "better prepare inmates for their ultimate return to the community." A laudable ambition, but in light of recent developments, the question remains: has this objective been achieved, or have unforeseen conditions arisen to prevent its attainment. I suggest that the latter is true, conditions do and have changed,

and these changes must be fully recognized and further addressed by the C.S.C.

Recent years have seen vast changes in C.S.C. policy, the rehabilitation model so evident in the late sixties and early seventies has given way to what might be termed the "opportunities model." Responsibility for resocialization has, with the stroke of a pen, been removed from the shoulders of the C.S.C and given over to the inmate. A case of: he/she got himself into this fix, now let him get himself out! But having and accepted this, is it to be held equally true that the C.S.C. now has no responsibility in the process other than as the agency providing benign containment; that the sole responsibility for success or failure is the inmate's alone? This would be all well and good if the C.S.C. had no direct input into the prison system, but they do and they must, therefore, bear an equal share of responsibility for the success or failure of the programmes they control.

The Correctional Service has quite rightly noted that no good can result if either an inmate is denied the right to earn his way, or "has all his needs provided for unconditionally." His dignity as a human being is indeed placed in direct jeopardy. But equally true is the fact that any system must be inherently flexible enough to cope with the changing needs of those in its care. For the most part, every inmate now in custody will return to the street one day. How will he return? Will it be as a harsh and bitter man, made even more bitter by years of forced and unnecessary poverty? Or will he have at least recognized the "opportunities" available to himself and started to change? A change helped in part by the fact that he was better able to realize the value of the programmes held out to him and accept them. A man forced to devote his every waking hour to the task of keeping body & soul together (in a spiritual sense) is not a man free to accept the need for change, let alone actually change himself.

The new pay package, with all its faults, is with us to stay. But aside from that, it isn't a sacrilege to also admit that nothing is perfect. It's no sin to fine tune a programme that might well prove to be more beneficial to all parties involved. Trite but true, Burton's aphorism bears repetition: "Penny wise, pound foolish."

Guy Lount

Wife of inmate at Collins Bay writes verse about separation

□ Editor's Note:

Three years ago, Josephine (Joie) Burns came to Kingston to be near her husband, an inmate at Collins Bay penitentiary. To deal with the stress of being "totally alone" in a new city, she began to write poems "to and about my husband and the time we are serving."

Recently, Joie put together a booklet of her poems as part of a fund-raising campaign by Convoy, a group of volunteers attempting to provide low-cost transportation for people visiting inmates at Kingston-area prisons. Proceeds from the sale of the booklets will be donated to Convoy to help with the group's goal of purchasing a van.

The booklets are available, at a cost of \$2 each, by writing Joie Burns, 780 Division St., Apt. 229, Kingston, Ont. K7K 5S9.

Tomorrow I see your face once more,
And I'll stare as if I hadn't seen it
before.
These Friday, Monday blues that I
attain,
Fighting thru' the hours until I see you
again.
Somehow I hate these hours we're
apart,
Yet I know deep down in my heart
It must be the cloud these grey walls
cast,
'Cause we never lived in each other's
shadow in the past.

They write songs about the prisoner
locked behind the wall,
All about his sadness, and his blues
that have grown so tall.
And forget about the girl he's left
alone to pine,
The one whose every day is just
another cryin' time.

The tears we have shed no one could
know,
And our heartaches each day only
grow
As we cross every barrier down the
line,
'Cause it's not just the men serving
time.

Tho' we've done nothing wrong we
still pay
With all our lonely teardrops every
day.
Tryin' to build a life outside the wall,
While we're waiting to hear freedom's
call.

Packin' everything we own into some
old car,
Headin' down the highway, travelin'
way too far,
Facing a strange town we never
thought we'd see,
Just to be as close to our man as we
can be.

We bring up our children the very best
we can
Without the helping hand of our man.
We try our best to teach them right
from wrong.
And pray someday their wives won't
sing this song.

So everytime you hear some fellow's
sentence read,
And say the guy deserves it, he made
his own bed
Well we know he broke the law, and
has to do his time.
Just remember that his wife and kids
are on that firin' line.

Joie Burns

" Chairman's Final Word "

It gives me pleasure to be able to sit here and review the past recent months. Our group has expanded to 121 inside members. We are now the largest social group, of any federal prison in Canada. We are becoming known all over Canada and even in part, of other countries. The TOCSIN is our greatest asset and will continue to serve as our voice.

We have met many interesting people through the John Howard Society and we have gained many new friends. It really gives me satisfaction to see so many people come in that actually care about us. People often fail to realize that not only is it difficult for society to trust us; but it is also hard for us to trust society. There is no trace of mistrust in our group as we can see an obvious understanding among inside members and outside guests. This bond will grow stronger too!!

I could never thank the many members and guests for their support, because I would be afraid to leave someone out. All of you know who you are and to all of you; I wish you a very special Merry Christmas and the happiest New Year ever. Your continued support is the greatest gift we could receive at this time. I am confident that we will continue to grow larger and better over the years.

I may not be here for the next issue of TOCSIN, "I hope"; so I want to thank everyone affiliated with JHS. for all they have done for me personally. I have acquired much wisdom, made many new friends, and even the extra hair I lost was well worth it. John Howard has been very good to me and I'm sure there are many others who can say the same.

I've already said more than I had anticipated. Thank-you, all of you for your continued support. From all of us here at the Bay, we send our best wishes for 84 and we hope to be out there with you SOON.

Nick Malham

OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN

We hope that 'TOCSIN' will have provided you with hours of entertainment. We would also like to remind everyone who has received a copy of TOCSIN, that without your much needed dollars and support our efforts will have been futile to a certain extent. We may have accomplished enlightening our readers as to what goes on inside Collins Bay and the views of the Chapter, but we will have failed in making the TOCSIN work. It must pay for itself.

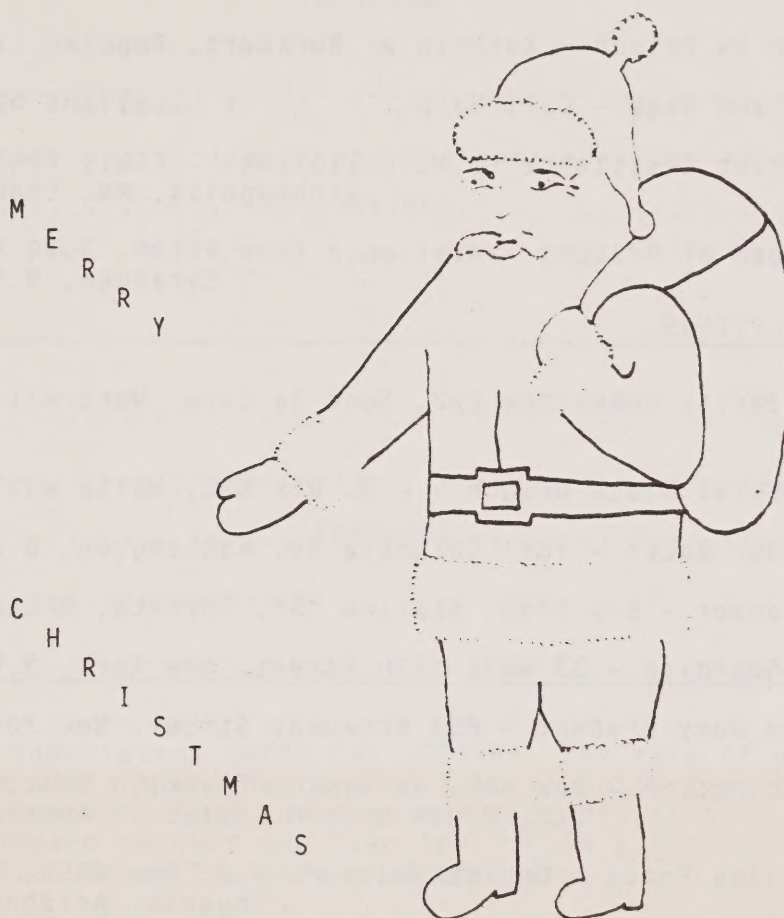
After a brief discussion with our Chairman we have discovered that if we don't pick up several hundred additional subscribers with our latest issue, we will be much too far in the red to ever hope of breaking even for years to come.....

W E L C O M E



T H A N K Y O U

To all our readers of TOCSIN, all our special friends and community volunteers, to all of you who attended as guests during 1983, and to all of the John Howard Society of Canada, we the Collins Bay Chapter wish you a very



SEE YOU AGAIN IN '84', MAY IT BE AN EVENTFUL NEW YEAR FOR ALL!!

GOOD READING MATERIAL

Barred From Prison - Claire Culhane. Pulp Press Book Publishers
572 Beatty St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2L3

Women in Prison - Kathryn W. Burkhardt. Popular Library (465pgs.)

Love and Rage - Carl Harp (excellent material)

Feminist Resistance to Male Violence - Cleis Press, Box 8281
Minneapolis, MN. 55408

Instead of Prisons - Available from PREAP, 3049 E. Genesee St.,
Syracuse, N.Y. 13224

NEWSLETTERS

Solidarity Committee Cp2, Succ la Cite, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
H2W 2M9

Anarchist Black Dragon - P.O. Box 520, Walla Walla, Wa. 99362 USA.

Off Our Backs - 1841 Columbia Rd. Washington, D.C. 20009

Bulldozer - Box 5052, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario M5W 1W4

The Guardian - 33 West 17TH Street. New York, N.Y. 10011

Grand Jury Product - 853 Broadway Street. New York, N.Y. 10003

Emancipation - Box 840, Benjamine Franklin Station, Washington,
D.C. 20044 United States of America

Feminine Focus - Denise Sassoon. P.O. Box 6850, Capitol Station,
Phoenix, Arizona. 85005

HAPOTOC - P.O. Box 10638 EP Amsterdam, Holland. (great)

Madness Network News - 2150 Market St. San Francisco, C.A. 94140

Odyssey Newsletter - Millhaven Institution, P.O. Box 280, Bath,
Ontario. Canada. K0H 1G0

North American Anarchist - Box 2, Station "O", Tor. Ont. M4B 2B0

Through The Looking Glass - Box 33702, Seattle, WN. 98133 U.S.A.

The TOCSIN - P.O. Box 190, Kingston, Ontario. K7L 4V9

* * *

Send cheque or money order to:

The TOCSIN
John Howard Society of Kingston
771 1/2 Montreal Street
Kingston, Ontario. Canada
K7K 3J4

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:PROVINCE.....
POSTAL CODE:.....

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:.....PROVINCE.....
POSTAL CODE:

The above are suscription forms for 1983-84. The rate of population change over, has made it difficult to staff the TOCSIN. We regret not having filled any previous subscriptions. A new team of John Howard members now have the TOCSIN assignment and we have made this project a matter of priority.

The Collins Bay Chapter of John Howard must absorb the cost of printing and postage. Subscription fees are now \$12.00 per yr. We need your support to make TOCSIN a functional project. We consider TOCSIN an integral part of our efforts to acknowledge interested individuals on various issues concerning all John Howard members and its' supporters.

In the event that you as a subscriber, know of, or wish to encourage others who may desire to subscribe, to please use the above (extra) subscription form. Any further requests or information shall be promptly complied with.

The Editor...



FROM: John Howard Society
Collins Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 190
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4V9

TO:

Centre of Criminology Library
130 St. George St. Room 8001
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A5